

SIEC Briefing on a Proposed Renewal and Application Process for Licenses for Frequencies

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Description

Chapter 43.105 RCW, Section 4 (3)(b) outlines the additional duties of the SIEC and its responsibility to the Information Services Board (ISB). This section identifies as a responsibility of the SIEC to "...coordinate and manage on behalf of the board the licensing and use of state-designated and state-licensed radio frequencies..."

Recommendations to the committee

The SIEC Advisory Working (SAW) Group recommends the following:

1. Until such time as additional staff is in place to assist the SIEC in managing State spectrum, agencies should be allowed to continue renewing licenses as they have in the past. Additionally, agencies can continue to deploy equipment to maintain their business requirements using existing frequencies within their current service area. This is a necessary step to ensure continuity of business for all State agencies.
2. Any new licenses or projects will require the SIEC's approval.

Status

The State of Washington maintains many thousands of licenses for radio spectrum. Prior to the SIEC, each agency could independently apply for as many licenses as they wished. The SIEC legislation changes this ability. The SIEC is charged with coordinating and managing in behalf of the ISB all spectrum, therefore, agencies desiring additional frequencies must have approval of this Committee before filing for a license.

Issues

- o Many State licenses for radio spectrum are expiring.
- o It is realistic to believe that state agencies will require additional licenses for expanded services and interoperability applications.

Background

The Technical and Frequency Management Work Group reported to the SIEC Advisory Work Group, who agreed with the assessment that until such time as additional FTEs are in place, current staff levels are not in position to handle the additional work load of frequency coordination. Both work groups believed that business continuity should remain a function of individual state agencies. It is clear that although state agencies may renew their licenses for a period of ten years, the SIEC has full authority to re-task those licenses as required.

State agencies have always been allowed to license spectrum on behalf of the State of Washington. In order to ensure that spectrum is used most efficiently by all state agencies, chapter 43.105 RCW, Section 4 (3)(b) now makes the coordination and management of state-designated and state-licensed radio frequencies the responsibility of the SIEC. To assist the SIEC in managing spectrum, the Committee approved the decision package that would hire two

additional FTEs. It is noteworthy at this time to advise the Committee, that if the decision package is approved, the FTEs will not be authorized until July 2005.